

REMARKS

Claims 2-6 are all the claims pending in the application, claim 1 having been canceled as indicated herein. Claims 1-6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over prior art Figs. 4-9 (“APA”) in view Miller (U.S. Patent No.: 4,081,901), and further in view of Teshima (U.S. Patent No.: 5,658,660).¹

With respect to independent claim 2, Applicant submits that the applied references, either alone or in combination, do not teach or suggest at least “wherein at least one of said coil terminal and said end part is coated with an overcoat made of a resin having low permeability to elemental sulfur and sulfur compounds,” as recited in claim 2. That is, Miller, for example, does not even mention an overcoat made of resin. Yet further, even though Teshima discusses ‘resins’, nowhere does Teshima specifically teach or suggest an overcoat made of a resin having a low permeability to elemental sulfur and sulfur compounds. In fact, nowhere in the reference does Teshima even mention sulfur, or sulfur compounds. Therefore, at least based on the foregoing, Applicant submits that independent claim 2 is patentably distinguishable over the applied references.

With respect to dependent claims 5 and 6, Applicant submits that these claims are patentable at least by virtue of their dependency from independent claim 2.

¹ Please note that even though numbered paragraph 2 on page 2 of the Office Action only indicates that the APA and Miller are applied references, Teshima is also applied to support the rejections of claims 1-6, as indicated on page 3 of the Office Action. The Examiner previously verified this much via teleconference. Also, the Examiner also verified that 5,658,660 is the patent number of Teshima, as the entire patent number was not indicated in the Office Action.

With respect to dependent claim 4, Applicant submits that this claim is patentable at least for reasons similar to those set forth above for claim 2, as claim 4 recites limitations that are similar to those discussed above with respect to claim 2.

With respect to dependent claim 3, Applicant submits that none of the applied references teaches or suggests at least “wherein said protective film is coated with a overcoat made of a resin having low permeability to elemental sulfur and sulfur compounds ,” as recited in claim 3. That is, even if, *assuming arguendo*, the respective references individually disclose a protective film and resin, nowhere do the applied reference teach or suggest that a protective film is coated with an overcoat made of a resin having low permeability to elemental sulfur and sulfur compounds. Therefore, at least based on the foregoing, Applicant submits that dependent claim 3 is patentable over the applied references.

Additionally, Applicant adds new claim 7 to round out the scope of protection solicited for the present invention. Applicant submits that this claim is patentable at least by virtue of its dependency from independent claim 2, and at least for reasons similar to those discussed above with respect to claim 3.

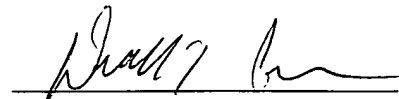
In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. APPLN. NO.: 09/961,187

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. Q65712

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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